



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

PENSTEMON WHIPPLEANUS **WHIPPLE'S BEARDTONGUE**

Whipple's Beardtongue is a perennial with tufted stems that are 20-60 cm tall, and arising from a shallow, branched rootcrown. The basal leaves each have an entire-margined, elliptic blade that is up to 6 cm long and a petiole of nearly the same length. The opposite stem leaves are narrower and mostly lack petioles. Foliage is glabrous below but glandular hairy above. The inflorescence consists of 2-7 clusters of short-stalked flowers in the axils of reduced upper leaves. The tubular corolla is flared and 2-lipped at the mouth, 18-28 mm long, and ranging in color from blue to maroon or cream colored with glandular hairs on the outside. The 5 narrowly lance-shaped calyx segments are 7-11 mm long and are green throughout and glandular-hairy. The 4 anthers are glabrous, and the staminode is bearded only at the tip. The fruit is a capsule that is 6-9 mm long and sparsely glandular-hairy near the top. Flowering in late July-early August.

The glandular inflorescence and fruit capsule separate *PENSTEMON WHIPPLEANUS* from all other species in our area, except for *P. ERIANTHERUS*, which has a staminode that is hairy for much of its length. A hand lens is needed for positive identification.